

The Lamp

January/February 2019



“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” Ps.119: 105

In 1853, the Sisters of Loretto opened a school for girls in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Several years later, they were ready to build a chapel. When the Loretto Chapel was completed in 1878, there was no way to access the choir loft twenty-two feet above. The architect had died before completion of the Chapel and had not addressed this problem. Carpenters were called in to find a solution, but they all concluded access to the loft would have to be a ladder since a staircase would interfere with the interior space of the small Chapel.

To find a solution to the seating and stair problem, the Sisters made a novena to St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of carpenters. On the ninth and final day of prayer, a man appeared at the Chapel with a donkey and a toolbox looking for work. Months later, the elegant circular staircase was completed, and the carpenter disappeared without pay or thanks. After searching for the man (ads even ran in the local newspaper) and finding no trace of him, some concluded that he was St. Joseph himself, having come in answer to the sisters' prayers.

Three mysteries surround the spiral staircase in the Loretto Chapel: the identity of its builder, the type of wood used, and the physics of its construction. The stairway's carpenter, whoever he was, built a magnificent structure. The design was innovative for the time and some of the design considerations still perplex experts today.

The staircase has two 360 degree turns and no visible means of support. The staircase was built with-

out nails—only wooden pegs. Questions also surround the number of stair risers relative to the height of the choir loft and about the type of wood used in the stairway's construction. While made of spruce, no subspecies can be identified.

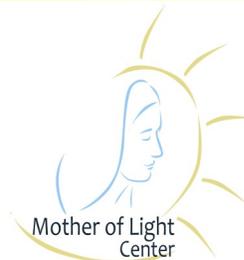
Admittedly, while we at the Mother of Light Center have not had **this** kind of miracle, we have the blessing of being open and fully licensed and ready to go. And we **know** that the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Martin de Porres, and St. Louis have all had significant influence! It's been a long 13 months, but we consider ourselves fortunate to have prayers and support from so many wonderful people.

We look forward to having you join us as we roll up our sleeves and get to work... Officially!



Inside this issue of *The Lamp*:

- Volunteer training schedule for February
- Recommended reading from our spiritual director
- Message from the Chair



The Lamp is the Mother of Light Center newsletter. The name, linked to the word of God, brings light on our paths. It represents life, hospitality, and guidance for the mission, and our hope for our guests and ourselves (volunteers, benefactors, friends) as we embrace “no us and them - only us”.

Recommended Reading

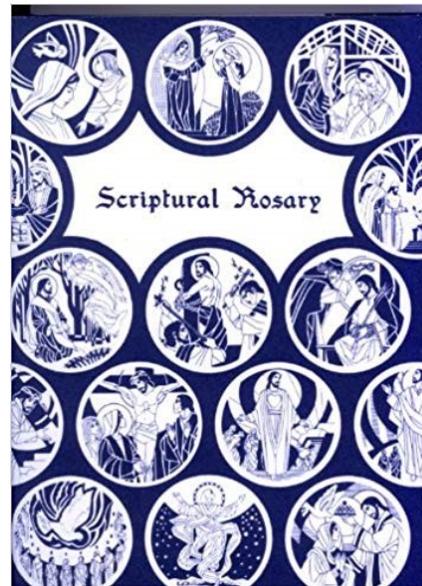
Scriptural Rosary by Christianica

This little book is a big blessing. It is a great help to Rosary beginners and to long-time Rosary devotees. Even using it once in a while will add depth or renew old meditation “trails” you’ve forgotten.

The book helps you pray the rosary with fewer distractions. It contains the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous and Glorious mysteries.

A section at the beginning of the book explains how to pray the Scriptural Rosary and there’s a section that provides the historic background.

The Scriptural Rosary has a scriptural verse between each Hail Mary to help focus the mind on each event in a particular mystery of Christ’s life.



Reverend Father Matthew Zuberbueler
Spiritual Director, Mother of Light Center
Pastor, St. Anthony Catholic Church

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The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, they may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

To make it really simple, you can use the link below which will take you directly to supporting Mother of Light Center on the shopping site!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-1635879>



Message from the Chair

Dear Friends:

Blessed New Year! Thank you for journeying with us! Know that your prayers, assistance, promotion, and generosity are very much appreciated. We are greatly encouraged by the support we receive and the progress that continues in fulfilling our mission.

This Christmas season, MOLC was blessed with the donation of many practical gifts for men and women who are homeless, vulnerable, poor, and needy. We quickly began our outreach. Partnering with Alexandria Police officers, gave us the opportunity to join in action, visit, and deliver gifts bags and blankets to the unsheltered men and women (25) at David's Place. In addition, we reached out to the day laborers (35) in different locations with gifts containing toiletry, socks, snacks, and much more. On Epiphany, we visited a senior living community in Alexandria where stuffed animals were offered to 20 residents. It was very impressive to see their encouragement and joy with their stuffed dog, cat, or lamb. One man's uplifting comment tells the story "I always wanted a stuffed animal growing up and this is my first." He was thrilled, comforted, and called his "new pet" Snoopy!

On Saturday, January 5, the first volunteer training was held for a group of 10 volunteers at MOLC facility located at Clifford Ave. Alexandria. The training imparted by Deacon Gerard-Marie Anthony centered on how we are called to E.X.I.S.T with a purpose:

E = Experience their experience

X= Xtend their experience into our mission for the Center

I= Identifying our task and population of service

S= Show Practical Ways on how to work with the targeted Population

T= Tie it all together (especially with our Special Use Permit-policies and procedures)

The training raised awareness and equipped our volunteers for starting their work at MOLC. We will continue to hold training twice a month. **Check the schedule and join us!**

Please remember to keep the Mother of Light Center in your prayers. Assuring all of our friends and supporter of a daily place in ours.

God bless you and keep you always,

Matilde Alvarado, Mother of Light Center Chair

MOLC Board Members

Rev. Fr. Matthew Zuberbueler
Deacon Gerard Marie Anthony
Matilde Alvarado
Evangeline Ganuelas
Elizabeth Currier
Lawrence Holmes, Jr.
Robin T. Huddleston
Leslie Murphy

CORE MISSION

With a coordinated approach, the assistance of volunteers and others in the community, Mother of Light Center is dedicated to love and serve men and women who are poor, needy, and homeless. We provide spiritual support, encouragement and information they need by establishing relationships. We help them identify their talents and potentials, redirect their lives, find jobs and permanent housing, and most importantly, discover how much God loves them.

Mother of Light Center, P.O. Box 1482, Falls Church, VA 22041

Contact us at: motheroflightcenter@gmail.com

For more information visit: www.motheroflightcenter.com

MOLC is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, not-for-profit, charitable organization, registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A financial statement is available upon written request from the VA Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs.